

PROGRESS MADE. BY EDUCATORS

(Continued from First Page.)

and, this was followed in the afternoon with a very interesting and profitable session in the Senate Chamber. In the afternoon the general conference met in the Christian Church, and the features were papers on "Jamestown and Education," by Dr. Chandler, on "Traveling Libraries," by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. McClellan, and a great paper on "Dissemination of the Study of the Bible," by Dr. Hock, of Columbia University.

A reception at Richmond College in the afternoon by the trustees and at night at Masonic Temple by the local Educational Association were delightful features of the great educational gathering.

At the night session of the general conference Dr. Bruce R. Payne and Dr. Alsworth R. Spofford, the Congressional Librarian, were the speakers, and they addressed an audience that overflowed the large church edifice.

TWO GENERAL MEETINGS HELD

Dr. Payne on Leadership and Librarian Spofford on "A World of Books."

The general conference met in the afternoon at the Seventh Street Christian Church with Dr. A. D. Dobie, of Norfolk, in the chair. "Education and the Jamestown Exposition," was the first subject considered. Dr. J. A. G. Chandler being the only speaker.

Dr. Chandler spoke in opening of the importance of the exposition in general, and then of the historical and educational value of the Jamestown Exposition. He named many Northern and Western States that have secured space for special educational exhibits, as well as many leading institutions, such as Cornell, Johns Hopkins, the Chicago University, and others, and also the University of Virginia. He declared that the State of Virginia "lost the ship," and he urged the teachers and other school people present that Virginia can do it if they will. Virginia must have an exhibit by photographs and maps, comparative and otherwise, to show to the world the growth of all things educational in Virginia within the past few years.

In this way all the different departments of the work can be shown. Virginia has a long history, and she has made the best history museum in the world has ever seen, and it is so interesting with the educational exhibit as to make them practically one.

The world has long wondered how Virginia educated the men who have made her famous from the days of Patrick Henry and George Washington down to the days of Lee and Jackson. Virginia had a school system in those days, and has a school system today. She had many struggles, but she has won the Revolution, and greater struggles in the days following that war. Greater struggles still she has made in the last thirty years. Her educational exhibit at Jamestown should show all those different periods in their best shape, and the exhibit itself will be educational. The doctor closed with an appeal to the teachers to aid in collecting the exhibit. State Librarian J. P. Kennedy read an interesting paper on "School Libraries—How to Organize Them." He fully explained the management of the traveling libraries the State has provided to be sent from the State Library to the schools of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Kennedy was followed by Superintendent S. H. McIlhenny, of Prince George, who made a short and eloquent talk in favor of a library. If only a \$10 one in every public school. He thinks the State can afford to give a school \$5 for this kind of a library, and the school rates a \$10 library would serve as a nucleus around which a storehouse of useful knowledge would grow.

"The Disciplinary Value of Studies" was the subject of an able paper read by Dr. W. H. Hock, of Columbia University.

Night Session.
At the night session of the general conference, the church was packed from the ground to the roof with a cultured audience, and the two addresses, one by Dr. Bruce R. Payne, on "The Teacher as a Leader," and one by Hon. Alsworth R. Spofford, the veteran Librarian of Washington, on "A World of Books," were listened to with almost breathless attention. Superintendent G. G. Payne, of Arkansas, presided at this meeting.

Dr. Payne started out with the proposition that the teacher in the schools of the State is presently a leader. That such progress has been made in educational lines in Virginia, the doctor attributed largely to the good leadership of the teachers. That they are to lead in any progress for leadership the future of our country is a blessing that it is to be considered with all the solemnity. The speaker deplored the fact that the South does not now furnish the leaders in national affairs that she once did, while admitting that this is due to certain conditions over which the South has no control. He thought the South has no education is so much more general in the North and the West than in the South has something to do with it.

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The South as been out of the leadership for long it has become the usual thing, and, therefore, in order to regain its ancient position its schools must prepare new leaders who are superior to those of any other section.

This can be done and must be done. The South has not had an equal show with other sections to take advantage of the opportunities for the display of leadership in national affairs. But it is in a position through the schools and by the help of the army of teachers, to produce leaders who will win their way to the front in spite of the conditions that have so long held their predecessors in the rear rank.

The South, he claimed, has more need just now for great leaders, for she has more problems to solve than any other part of the country.

Dr. Payne thinks the teacher who is to be the leader of the leader is worthy his or rather her hire, and he briefly and humorously discussed the question of the pay of teachers.

He produced the figures to prove the assertion of Mayor McCarthy that street cleaners in the cities of Virginia are paid less than the public school teachers. He declared there is something radically wrong about Virginia's system of taxation for school purposes. Only one-third of the property in the State is taxed for school purposes. Said he, if all the property of all the State was taxed at the rate of 25 cents for the education of all the children in all the State, the fund for elementary schools would reach \$1,700,000 per year.

In conclusion, the doctor urged continued agitation for popular education and better pay for the educators.

Address by Dr. Spofford.
Dr. Spofford was introduced by Captain John Lamb.

The address of the veteran Librarian, whose long service to Congress extends over more than a generation, was fully appreciated. "The World of Books." This theme was handled with masterly skill by the speaker, whose eloquence of the masterpieces of the great writers of the world was sympathetic and vivid.

After a sketch of the evidence that form an essential foundation for the learning of the instructor and the Librarian, Dr. Spofford said:

"Passing from science to literature, I should like to see you aim to read many books, but to read the best books there are. Read, and read again, the choice productions of the masters of literature, and leave all the rest to those who don't know better than to devour the last new novel. It is wiser to read one old book through three times, than to read three new books through once. Our libraries are full of good models, but they are also full of misleading models to be discreetly shunned."

The speaker referred to the library catalogue most in use, with their manifold and time-consuming annoyances of finding many card-cities, in defective light and inconvenient angles of vision. He recognized the necessity of the card system as the only security for perfect alphabetic sequence, but advised all librarians to add to it another catalogue made up by mounting duplicate titles on fold sheets, bound in volumes with wide margins for additions, thus presenting all the titles of each author's work, and all works on each subject, at a glance of the eye instead of only one at a time, as in the card system.

Dr. Spofford said that "The Bible, considered as literature, without any regard to its doctrine, has more strength, more power, more pathos, more nobility, more pity and power, than any other work in our language. Men forget that this Bible is not so much a book, as it is a whole library, in which more than forty different writers are found. Nearly a third of the Old Testament is poetry. Bible reading has been made unpopular by microscopic type, if portable, and by heavy bulk if readable. The best book in the world has been for three centuries the worst made book in the world.

But now we may secure each book of the Bible separately, in large type, at six to ten cents a volume at any American Bible depository.

The speaker concluded with saying: "The best books of the world are the histories, the poems, and the stories which are the best told. The sense of the fittest is as certain as that of art is long. In the companionship of books we move across the centuries, and mingle with every race and every age. Good books are the most precious, the most profitable of all our possessions, they are almost the only pleasure in which there is no alloy. The world of books is a realm as large as the universe, and the noblest treasure that holds the truth."

They awaken the reason, they kindle the imagination, they refine the taste, they lighten our cares, they soften our griefs, they enhance our joys, they ennoble and ennoble the mind. They hold that which is imperishable in man that which survives centuries, conquers oblivion, and triumphs over the grave."

SUPERINTENDENTS AND EXAMINERS

The Liveliest Discussion Yet. Legality of Examiner's Action Questioned by Lawyer.

The Superintendents' Conference, held in the House of Delegates yesterday morning, was well attended, although some of the superintendents were a little tardy in reaching the hall.

"Recognition of Certificates and Diplomas Granted" was the first subject discussed, and addresses were delivered by Dr. James Cannon, president of the Blackstone Female College, and Superintendent D. L. Pulliam, of Manchester. Among other things, Dr. Cannon said:

"The ideal condition is to place the profession of teaching on the same basis as law, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, and allow no man to teach without standing examination. But what shall be done for the present distress? We need 9,000 teachers. We need over 2,000 new teachers every year; 2,300 persons took the examination this year. Only about 200 secured first-grade certificates and about the same number secured second and the third grade, less than 500 altogether."

Increase Salaries.
"How can we increase the supply of teachers. The first answer is, 'Increase salaries until teaching becomes a profession and not a make-shift.' But what else can be done? We must increase the number of the centers of supply. We must unite all the educational forces of the State in this work. I offer the following as a helpful plan to increase the number of the centers of supply: Let the State Board of Education establish certain definite requirements to be met by all schools and colleges whose certificates shall be accepted by the State board in lieu of examination. The requirements should be threefold: (1) A minimum amount of study should be prescribed. (2) The faculty should be required to show satisfactory evidence of preparation. (3) The work of such schools should be open to inspection by the State board of education."

"What advantage will accrue from this plan? Such a policy would result in the raising of the standard of private institutions to a minimum, a great increase in the number of the centers of supply for teachers, the more suitable and proper preparation of the teachers who already come from private schools, and a large increase in the number of students who would take such courses in our academies."

"This principle has been adopted by our colleges and universities. They have accredited certain schools, whose students are accepted without examination, and it has worked well. A student who works well in reference to certificates for teaching."

Tribute to Teachers.
Superintendent Pulliam, of Manchester, presented a carefully prepared paper, in which he strongly advocated proper recognition of the services of the teachers of experience, and to maintain a high standard for those who engage in the profession of teaching.

A. D. Dobie, of Norfolk, paid tribute to the teachers of the public schools of the State. He wanted to see the standard maintained and advanced from time to time, and he came out boldly for an increase in the pay of teachers. Inadequate salaries for those who have or would make teaching a profession were barred many from continuing. Nearly every calling or profession was made more inviting than that of teaching.

Some of the speakers argued that certificates should be given to graduates of institutions accredited by the State Board of Education, by which those graduating from such schools would be permitted to teach in the public schools without the usual preliminary examination.

State Superintendent J. D. Eggleston was called upon for an expression of his views. In a speech of the importance of the superintendent to the State, he declared that teaching should be made as much as the ideal schools would provide in Virginia only when such could come to be the case.

Mr. Rowles, the Superintendent of the State Institute for Deaf, Dumb and Blind at Staunton, who according to Dr. Eggleston, had rendered him in his management of the institute. During the ten years of his management he declared, the State had never employed an agent to exploit the institute through the State, but the superintendents themselves had been efficient agents of his school and had sent him pupils year after year, to the institute to his credit. He declared that the superintendent had both increased the efficiency of the institute and lessened the expense of the institute to the State.

The committee of ten, one from each congressional district, to name an executive committee of five, submitted its report recommending the following, who were elected: Dr. M. Brown, W. D. Smith, George H. Hulvey, H. M. Clarkson and D. L. Pulliam.

Caused a Stir.
A joint conference of State examiners and division superintendents was called, and Superintendent Fletcher B. Watson, of Pittsylvania, was called upon to lead. In opening the discussion Mr. Watson made a pleasant address, in which several of the topics being discussed by the conference, especially the subject of the hour. This joint meeting proved to be one of the liveliest of the day. It was smooth enough for while, as the superintendents and examiners quietly followed Mr. Watson in discussion of the question: "How are Efficient Teachers to be Had for the Schools of the State?" but by Superintendent M. D. Hall, who is a lawyer of ability as well as a county superintendent, took the floor, and he had proceeded but a little ways before he startled the conference by declaring that at the present time there are scores of young women teaching in this State whose license to teach is illegally given, and, therefore, they are pursuing a profession to which they have neither the title nor the law.

"What I mean to say is this," said he, "that the State Board of Examiners, recently appointed by the State Board of Education under the sanction of the last Legislature, has gone to work and issued a lot of certificates to applicants for teachers' positions in the county schools, when under the present statutes governing their action, they had not a title, not an iota of right, so to do. Therefore, I declare their whole action illegal. Their authority is not found in the Virginia Code, and exists nowhere but in their own minds."

"Every single one of the emergency certificates issued by this same board of examiners is unlawful. It is without authority, and the teacher practicing under that illegally issued certificate is teaching a county school without the proper authority to do so."

Noticing the surprise which this shot had caused in the ranks, Mr. Hall continued:

"This is nothing to create so much consternation and surprise. Mr. Chairman, it is no uncertain quantity, nor is it a far-fetched. All I ask for the examiners here present to show me in the law the authority for their action, and I will surrender the field and admit myself vanquished. But the authority is not there. They will hunt up the statutes governing the board they will find so far from the proper authority to do so."

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Educational Program To-day.

GENERAL CONFERENCES.

8 P. M., Seventh Street Christian Church: General conference under auspices of the State Teachers' Association. Dr. George H. Denny presiding officer.

1. Annual report, President R. C. Stearnes.
2. "How Agriculture is Taught in the Public Schools," Dr. D. J. Cooley.
3. "Manual Training," Dr. W. C. A. Hammett.

SPECIAL MEETINGS—SUPERINTENDENTS' CONFERENCE.

10 A. M., House of Delegates:

1. "In What Respect Should the School Curriculum be Modified to Meet Twentieth Century Demands?" Superintendent M. D. Hall, Superintendent H. E. Coppenhaver, Frank W. Duke.
2. "Woman's Part in Public School Education," Superintendent W. H. Davis, Superintendent J. K. Fulton, Superintendent Lee Britt, Miss Louise Griggs.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE.

10 A. M., Basement Seventh Street Christian Church:

1. "To What Extent Shall Principals be Employed in Teaching?" Principal J. S. Simpson, Superintendent A. H. Hill, Principal Corinda W. Evans, Principal H. S. Williams.
2. "Uniformity in Grading," Principals W. H. Keister, Eugene G. Gurnum, C. P. Spencer, J. W. Miller.
3. "What Should be the Basis of Promotion from Grade to Grade?" Principals A. L. Burger, Robert Snavely, William Anderson, Marnie Howland.
4. "What Provision Should be Made for Defectives?" Principal R. H. Shepley, D. D. Shreve.
5. Informal discussion.

CONFERENCE OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

10 A. M., Richmond High School, 805 East Marshall Street: Time of meetings and speakers will be announced later. The following subjects will be discussed:

1. "In What Direction Should the Science Course in Rural High Schools be Developed?"
2. "How Can the Present Required Course in English Classics be Improved or Made More Suited to High School Students?"
3. "What is the Best Progressive Course in Teaching Composition?"
4. "The Aim and General Method in Teaching History?"

CONFERENCE OF PRIMARY TEACHERS.

10 A. M., Central School Building:

1. "The Place of Drawing in Primary Work," Miss M. W. Coaling, State Normal School, Farmville; Miss J. P. Swanson, Danville.
2. "Methods of Primary Reading," Miss M. W. Halliburton, State Normal School, Farmville; Miss Elizabeth Ivy, Newport News.
3. "The Value of the 'Value of Nature Study,'" Miss Virginia Cary, Richmond.
4. "The Geographical Side of Nature Study," Dr. E. V. Millidge, Farmville, State Normal School.

CONFERENCE OF TEACHERS OF RURAL SCHOOLS.

10 A. M., Smithfield Business College, corner Ninth and Broad Streets: "Schoolroom Decoration," Miss Gertrude Brinkhaus, of Boston, Mass. "The Relation of Teacher and Patron" (speakers to be announced later). "Methods in Primary Geography," Miss Ida Watts, Lynchburg, Va. "The Phases of the Moon," Miss Anna Le Grande, Lynchburg, Va.

CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS.

10 A. M., Y. M. C. A. Hall:

1. "School Taxation—(a) How Best Obtained; (b) Best Method of Apportioning Taxes; (c) Methods of Levying a Higher Rate of Taxation to Specially Placed in Apportioning State Funds," Mr. W. S. Copeland, Mr. H. M. Houser.
2. "Value of School Improvement Leagues," Superintendent T. T. West, Dr. F. V. N. Painter.

when under the present statutes governing their action, they had not a title, not an iota of right, so to do. Therefore, I declare their whole action illegal. Their authority is not found in the Virginia Code, and exists nowhere but in their own minds."

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Plain and Changeable Taffetas, a beautiful range of shadings	58c

were read by Superintendents E. O. Poole, of Augusta, T. R. McInturf, of Shalmonah, and John N. Seibell, of Southampton. These papers were of the same general tenor, giving the experience of the writers in the work of consolidation, and all agreed that the plan is working, "to a certain" in their respective districts.

Mr. Poole said the first consolidation in his district took place six years ago, a four-room house being built and four schools combined. To this school there are now hauling by comfortable wagons sixty children per day, and the enrollment is 160. There are four competent teachers in charge, and it has become a high school and is in a flourishing condition. In all respects far superior to the four little schools from which it was made up. Another consolidation of three schools and one room of a third has been made, and is doing as well as the other one named. A third notable consolidation school has 200 scholars and 6 teachers. Three wagons are used to carry scholars to and from this school.

Mr. Poole says: "We find the attendance is very much better at this consolidated school than it was at the single schools, especially where the scholars are hauled to and from the school. Our wagons are large and roomy and comfortable, well curtained, and supplied with tarbores. We have careful, splitting reading of the statutes, so some lawyers would do. He thought they should have all the power and discretion needed to meet an emergency."

Superintendent Clements, of Alexandria, took similar ground, and made an earnest speech in defense of the examiners. He offered the following resolution, which was almost unanimously adopted, and that closed the incident, as well as the session of the conference:

Resolved, That this conference recognizes the difficulty and hard work done by the State Board of Examiners and inspectors in adapting the school conditions to the new laws and the new Constitution of the State, and we, therefore, endorse the efforts and commend their good work."

Mr. Seibell's paper and his experience in Southampton county was much the same as Mr. Poole had in Augusta. In the place of the two-roomed school house, he now has a \$10,000 building, with six first-class teachers, and the work of consolidating the twelve schools in his district into four first-class ones is rapidly going on. He, too, uses the wagon transportation.

Mr. John H. Davis, of Prince Edward county, spoke in the place of Superintendent L. D. Jones on this subject, and told of the consolidations in the Lee District of his county. Mr. Eggleston, who had been called out on this subject, said he was sure that if consolidation worked anywhere on the earth, or at least anywhere in Virginia, it would work here. He said, however, that it was a better man, wiser something valuable that if the State Fair should next year offer a premium for the best consolidation in the State, Lee District would certainly take off with it. The discussion took a wide range, and Mr. Eggleston was asked many questions, showing that all of the superintendents and teachers were greatly interested in the subject.

Teachers' Afternoon Session.

At 3:30 P. M. the State Teachers' Association met in the basement of the Seventh Street Christian Church, according to the program announced. President Ormond Stone presided. The first business

was a report of the committee, consisting of Messrs. J. H. Saunders, H. H. Shepley, and R. C. Stearnes, who were appointed to consider the matter of electing the membership clause of the by-laws of the association, was adopted. The committee on organization reported the following nominations: For president, F. B. Fitzpatrick, of Gate City, Va.; for secretary, J. H. Buford, of Richmond; for treasurer, N. P. Painter, of Roanoke. The following were nominated for vice-presidents: First Congressional District, James G. Nook, of Berkeley; Second, H. Saunders, of Portsmouth; Third, S. T. Turner, of Richmond; Fourth, Josiah Gains, of Emporia; Fifth and Sixth, Edgar Spelman, of Lynchburg; Seventh, Ormond Stone, of Charlottesville; Eighth, J. D. Harris, of Warrenton; Ninth, R. H. Shepley, of Big Stone Gap; Tenth, J. G. Jeter, of Covington. These were unanimously elected.

A large majority of the counties and cities reported delegates to the association, and greater interest in the work is manifested than ever before. On motion of Mr. J. H. Saunders, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That the chair appoint a committee of three to investigate the minimum salary law of the several States, and report at the next meeting of the association for presentation to the next General Assembly of Virginia. Further, that in case the association should not act before the General Assembly meets, then, on the call of the president of the association, the committee shall report to the executive committee, which shall have power to act.

The next session will be announced at the next session of the association.

PRIMARY EDUCATION. Teachers Hold Interesting Meeting at Central School.

The primary teachers who are attending the Educational Convention and those interested in the work, held an interesting meeting at Central School yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Richardson presided, and welcomed the teachers in a few words of encouragement and hospitality. He then introduced Miss Alice N. Parker, who addressed the meeting on a very practical subject: "The Relation Between the Primary School and Kindergarten."

Miss Parker showed how closely the primary work ought to follow the work of the kindergarten, and how dependent the former is upon the latter.

She proceeded to explain the work of the kindergarten and to show how the kindergarten teacher strives to cultivate the faculties of the child a little to encourage him in original work.

Miss Helen Childers read a very helpful paper on "Language in the Schools." Miss Cox, of Farmville, was present and spoke on "Manual Training," of which she has made a special study.

Will Organize.
The members of county boards of supervisors who are here in attendance, upon the Educational Conference have decided to form a permanent organization among themselves. A meeting for this purpose will be held at the Y. M. C. A. Hall this evening. The members of the board of the city are cordially invited to attend.

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